

## GOSSIP OF PUBLISHERS AND AUTHORS IN BOOKLAND

## THE MEN WHO PUBLISH BOOKS—JOSEPH H. SEARS

President of D. Appleton and Company Has Novel and Decided Views on Publishing. Says Conceptions of "Morality" and "Immorality" of Books Change as Do Dress Fashions. Fashions in Literature Start in Paris, Migrate to London, Then to This Country.

Mr. Sears was born in Boston, 1860, and was educated at the famous old Roxbury Latin School. After two years of youthful bookishness he entered Harvard and took his degree in three years. He found time to be president of the *Harvard Advocate* and the *Harvard*, captain of the football team in 1882, and to row on the varsity crew. After graduation he attended the Imperial University in Berlin for two summers and then went on to Paris, where he studied in the Ecole des Sciences Politiques for a little more than a year. Back to this country in 1885 he married, and was associated with the *Boston Commonwealth* for eight months. Next he was on the *Congressman* staff about a year, going there to Harpers, acting in various editorial capacities on *Harpers's Young People*, *Harpers's Weekly*, and *Harpers's Bazar*. In 1891 he became associated with the firm of H. Appleton & Co. and has, to the present time, made his personality strongly felt in the world of books and publishers through this medium.

MR. SEARS has some decided views on individual views on book publishing. They are extremely interesting in themselves aside from being composed of this diversified series of opinions seem to vary as to whether a publishing house should establish and maintain an "attitude" making its list conform to some



Joseph Hamblen Sears.

set standard in the treatment of moral questions, religious, political, scientific, or what not. Says Mr. Sears:

"I conceive that the function of the publisher is to issue such books as will produce sales for the house. He is trusted by stockholders to carry on a profitable business, and if he puts out books which do not sell he defeats their purpose. If he publishes books which do sell, he helps the name of his house and does a good thing.

There is much discussion over the "immorality" and "immorality" of many books now appearing, and much discussion over whether certain books should be suppressed and their publishers imprisoned. This conception of "morality" has changed from time to time, just as fashions in dress change. If "Damaged Goods" or "The House of Bondage" or "The Hungry Heart" had been published in the '70s, not only would they have been suppressed in this country and in England but most people would not have read them; the books would not have interested them. These books have too serious a side, their pictures of life are too awful to appeal to people who would read them only for their so-called salacious qualities.

For this reason, waiting for a proper time of appearance, there is a book written by David Graham Phillips which has been withheld from publication. It is the only one of his now left unpublished. A tremendous effort 425,000 words long, and I really don't know whether it ever will be published. It is the most awful book I have ever read; but to me there is nothing immoral in it. Whenever it appears it will create a furor, and I don't doubt but its suppression, while it will say it is the greatest novel in the English language.

And then the morality of a book depends largely on the way it is bound. A book which arouses a protest, a book issued by the John D. Rockefeller

## NEWS OF AUTHORS

## AND THEIR WORK

Dr. Phillips Oppenheim's American publisher has just issued this favorite author's newest novel, "The Double Life." Alfred Burton, who recited the following letter from a Mrs. Alfred Burton, who resides in a small town in Maryland:

"I would like to know what Dr. Phillips Oppenheim knows about Alfred Burton. My husband and I do not know he is a double life as interested would like to know."

Frederick Trevor Hill, whose novel "The Night Nurse" has just been published by the Century company, has resided for three years and has been connected with the trial of some of the most famous cases known to the New York courts. He has been spending the summer in Switzerland, working on a life of Washington.

Mrs. Alice Tweedie, the English writer, who spent several months in this country last winter, has just recorded her impressions in a specially written volume, "America as I Saw It." "You may not agree with a word I say," she writes an American friend, "but, anyway, I do, for beyond anything else, I am honest."

a star actress marks a new departure for Mr. Vance, representing as it does his most serious literary work.

If G. Wells, who has just completed a new novel which the Harpers will publish in the fall, has invented an ingenious and delightful war game, played with the soldiers and military man, but involving a knowledge of strategy and of the art of maneuvering that renders it most exciting. So absorbing does he find it that he is always ready to devote an afternoon to a game of it, his opponent in the game usually being a fellow author.

Hamlin Garland, author of "Cavanagh: Forest Ranger," has himself just been spending a month among the forest rangers and Indian agencies of Montana, gathering material for a new novel. The rebuilding of his home at West Salem, Wisconsin, which was burned last year, is now completed. Mr. Garland will soon start on a trip to New York and expects to spend a large portion of this winter in the East.

Blair Jackson, F. R. G. S., author of "Windmills and Wooden Shoes" (McBride, Nast & Co.), has turned to farming as a means of cultivating inspiration as well as the more homely products of the soil. He says: "I have recently purchased several acres of soil, subsoil and rock bottom in the vicinity of Doylestown, Pa., including also dwelling, barn, outbuildings, growing crops, sundry and divers impedimenta and accoutrements. Here I expect to live, with periodical excursions as the bank account and the wanderlust dictate."

Russell Digby, co-author with Richardson L. Wright of "Through Siberia to Empire in the Making," recently went from New York to Chicago on trolley cars. The trip necessitated changing forty-eight times and cost about \$22.

Will N. Harben, whose new novel, "The Desired Woman," is just published, says the story was suggested to him at a convention of country school teachers he once came across. Among the number was a young mountain girl of a type so different from her companions, so full of life, that she became for him the "Dolly" of "The Desired Woman." The plot of the story shaped itself about her. Harben, a preacher, like the cheerful tramping "brother" of "The Desired Woman," Mr. Harben has also frequently encountered in the Georgia mountains.

Cosmo Hamilton has returned from three months in England for another season of lecturing and play producing in America. His play "The Blindness of Virtue," which was produced in London, is now being produced in New York by the George H. Doran Company, is proving a continued success and there are four companies on the road touring the West and Canada.

Just before leaving England he received a spontaneous and unforeseen compliment. A request came to him from King George and Queen Mary for special copies of his recently published volume on child education, "A Pathway for the Younger Generation" (Doran). The last word received was that it was being read at court with the interest and kind of interest.

Recently the editor of *Life* asked several friends to name the best book they had read during the past year. In his reply, Irvin S. Cobb, whose book "Back Home" was recently published, had his little joke. Said he: "The best book that I have read in the past twelve months is the one called 'Back Home,' published by the George H. Doran Company."

"I make this statement without mental reservation after a considerable study of the matter. This book has meant more to me, it has brought more to me, and it has done more for me and my family than any book I have ever read. Truly yours, Irvin S. Cobb."

"P. S.—The author of this book is also related by marriage to my wife."

Thomas Malloch, author of the new book of poems, "The Waste," just published by Doran, was riding downtown on the elevated one day reading an evening paper. Suddenly his eye lit upon a pathetic story of a contact in a Massachusetts institution, which was written by a poet. Malloch started to read it. The first lines seemed familiar, and he had not read far before he discovered the poem was one of his own, written years before.

Arrived at his office, Malloch hunted up the original poem, pinned it to the version attributed to the convict, and mailed both to the warden, with a letter as follows:

"Sir, I have read this story, and am sending you proof that the prisoner did not write the poem mentioned and that as a matter of fact I wrote the poem myself. So, if that is what he is in for, let him out."

Kate Dickinson Sweetser, whose "Book of Indian Prayers" has just been published, admits that she has three favorite autographed books, of which she has a valuable collection of girls' club work and, thirdly, her cat. He is large and black and has most of the time on his sweater, she says, when she writes, watching the pen with gleaming eyes. "Just a common kitchen cat," says his mistress, "but oh! what temperament!"

## Books Received.

"The Life of Laman Trumbull," Horace White, (Houghton Mifflin Company).  
"Vivings of John Quincy Adams," Vol. II, Edited by Worthington Chalmers, (Ford, Macmillans).  
"Memoirs of the Court of England in 1671," Marie Catherine, Baronne d'Aulnoy, (John Lane Company).  
"Shakespeare as Playwright," Brander Matthews, (Charles Scribner's Sons).  
"Shakespeare as Poet," Henry C. Shelley, (Little, Brown and Company).  
"Pacific Shores from Panama," Ernest Perrine, (Charles Scribner's Sons).  
"The Carolina Mountains," Margaret W. Morley, (Houghton Mifflin Company).  
"The Story of a Page," John H. Heaton, (Harpers).  
"Art and Common Sense," Royal Cortissoz, (Charles Scribner's Sons).  
"Studies from an Eastern Home," Sister Nivedita, (Longmans, Green and Co.).  
"The Life of Jesus," Alfred W. Martin, (Appletons).  
"The Two Great Republics, Rome and the United States," James Hamilton Lewis, (Raid Company, Inc.).  
"Revelation and the Ideal," George A. Gordon, (Houghton Mifflin Company).  
"Charles Gordon Ames, Editor of the *Atlantic*," Alice Winter, (Houghton Mifflin Company).  
"Henry's Realization," Henry W. Wright, (Henry Holt and Company).  
"The Work of the Rural School," J. D. Baxter, W. End Roberts, (Harpers).  
"The Mixing," Bouck White, (Doubleday, Page and Company).  
"The Main Road," Maude Radford Warren, (Harpers).  
"Gold, Stewart Edward White, (Doubleday, Page and Company).  
"The Unfaithful," Eleanor M. Ingram, (D. R. Lippincott Company).  
"The Perilous Twins," Edgar Jepson, (The Hobbs-Merrill Company, Indianapolis).  
"Partners," Margaret Deland, (Harpers).  
"The Night Nurse," J. Johnston Abraham, (D. R. Lippincott Company).  
"A Narrow Way," Mary Fletcher, (D. R. Lippincott Company).  
"The Death of the Moth," Maxwell Gray, (Appletons).  
"The Man Between," Walter Archer Frost, (Doubleday, Page and Company).  
"The Mouse Colored Road," Vance Thompson and Oliver Herford, (Appletons).

I am wrong only when I feel. If I am wrong, I must go back soon and correct my wrong impression, because I can't let anything till I do understand America and her people. Both fascinate me."

Montague Glass, whose "Potash and Perlmutter" stories have, in their dramatized form, been one of Broadway's early successes, doesn't like the theatrical life. In the two short months of his dramatic career, he complains, "I've ruined my digestion, acquired insomnia and been sued for \$10,000 damages because I happened to be within hailing distance when some one threw a man out of a theatre and failed to ascertain in advance that the man was a lawyer. Book royalties may be smaller than play royalties, but at least they are not governed by the Marquis of Queensberry rules, soda mint tablets and ten grain sulfonal powders. I mean to continue writing stories."

Louis Joseph Vance says he can do better work right in New York City than in any other part of the world—and he has tried England, France, the Bermudas and Provincetown. He has returned home after a year's absence, just at the time his new novel "Don Quixote" is making its appearance. This story of a New York shopgirl who achieved success as

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Thompson and Oliver Herford, (Appletons).  
"The Wind in the Willows," Kenneth Grahame, (Charles Scribner's Sons).  
"The Life and Letters of Philip, Duke of Wharfedale," Lewis Melville, (John Lane Company).  
"Ruth Anne," Rose Cullen Bryant, (J. B. Lippincott Company).  
"The Point of View," Elinor Glyn, (Appletons).  
"Amanda of the Mill," Marie Van Vorst, (The Bobbs-Merrill Company).  
"Footprints Beneath the Snow," Henry Bordeaux, (Duffield and Company).  
"The Luck of Laramie Ranch," John Harbottle, (Appletons).  
"Sons and Lovers," D. H. Lawrence, (Mitchell Kennerly).  
"The Will to Live," M. P. Willcocks, (Macmillans).  
"Shallow," Frederick Watson, (E. P. Dutton and Company).  
"The Joy of Youth," Eden Philpotts, (Little, Brown and Company).  
"A Master Stroke," Margaret Hill McCarter, (A. C. McClurg and Company, Chicago).  
"The World's Daughter," Cyril Harcourt, (John Lane Company).  
"The Guest of the Fish-dog Skin," James Willard Schultz, (Houghton Mifflin Company).  
"Bailey Meale," Caroline French Benton, (Dana Estes and Company, Boston).  
"The Knapp Method of Growing Cotton," W. B. Mercer and H. E. Savely, (Doubleday, Page and Company).  
"The Joy of the Kitchen," Grace Rhys, (E. P. Dutton and Company).  
"The Joy of the Theatre," Albert Camus, (The Knapp Method of Growing Cotton).  
"Utility Poetry-Keeping," Ellen C. Davies, (Edward Arnold, Longmans, Green and Company).  
"The American Jewish Year Book," 1912, Edited by Herbert Friedland and H. G. Friedman, (The Jewish Publication Society of America, Philadelphia).  
"Scamp on Western Trails," Elinor Russell Gregory, (Harpers).  
"The Children's Book of Christmas Stories," Edited by A. Van Dickenson and Ada M. Skinner, (Doubleday, Page and Company).  
"Country Cousins," Ellen Douglas Deland, (Appletons).  
"Danny Fink," Walter Camp, (Appletons).  
"Holding a Thread," Helene Kragelstein Russell, (Appletons).  
"For Uncle Sam's Boys," Percy R. Fitzhugh, (Thomas S. Crowell Company).  
"The Little Master," Laura E. Richards, (Dana Estes and Company).  
"Twilight," Edith Brown and Company, (Little, Brown and Company).  
"The Tiptop Flippers," Edith B. Davidson, (Little, Brown and Company).  
"The Story Without an End," Sarah Austin, (Duffield and Company).  
"Vintage," author and publisher, Third Series, Translated by Edwin Rosenkranz, (Charles Scribner's Sons).  
"Salt Water," Haliday, John, Maxwellfield, (Macmillans).  
"The Best Stories in the World," Thomas L. Mason, (Doubleday, Page and Company).  
"The Sayings of Mrs. Solomon," Helen Rowland, (Dodge Publishing Company, New York).  
"Charles," A. B. Frost, (Doubleday, Page and Company).  
"The Development of American Nationality," Carl Russell Fish, (American Book Company).  
"The World of the World," Willis Mason West, (Allyn and Bacon, Boston).

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